

Saturday, 14th March 2020

Dear Students & Parents,

Our Epping centre is hereby in lockdown as part of our containment response against the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic. This means that from today until further notice, our premises will remain closed to all members of the public, including students and their guardians. For our students:

- There is no change to the essay marking process.
- Individual Lessons with your Supervising Academic (SA) will now take place via Skype or Facetime only and can be arranged as normal by emailing your SA.
- All classes will be replaced with online seminars (more information TBA early next week).
- As per normal, Delta guarantees the quality and availability of academic assistance throughout this period. Students will receive all the attention they require.
- If you need help or support in any way, email your SA or Class Teacher.

The COVID-19 Situation

COVID-19 is extremely virulent (survives and spreads very effectively) with the simultaneous ability to cause extreme sickness in vulnerable populations with one study finding 5% of cases in China requiring ICU admission and 2% needing a breathing machine (ventilation). Given that an uncontained spread could result in infection rates of up to 40-75% of the entire population, it could swiftly and easily overwhelm our healthcare system where we simply run out of ICU beds and ventilators. If the virus is adequately contained over the next few weeks, this figure can be significantly limited.

Infection and death rates are highly varied depending on the decisiveness of a country's response. The virus has severely punished societies with hesitant and inadequate containment measures; and it's very clear our measures have fallen short of those instated by China, South Korea and Singapore. We simply don't know how bad it's going to get here.

There may be no issue with 90% of an ICU being occupied, but if this were even slightly higher at 110%, the last 10% missing out on required intensive care are placed in mortal peril. Whether the actual required rate of ICU occupancy eventuates to 50%, 150% or 500% of present (all possible figures from global reports, especially Italy) **totally depends on our collective actions now during the current crucial transmission phase** when the virus incubates within us and spreads without causing symptoms. Please remember that not thoroughly washing your hands following external contact or choosing to unnecessarily be in public places could potentially result in one more ventilator being unavailable for a sick patient.

Dr. Satvik Sekhar
Director